

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00512 090633Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /078 W

----- 049216

R 080900Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2790

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, SO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON SIAD'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 0388 B) MOGADISCIO 0405 C) MOGADISCIO 0422

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SOMALI MATTERS TODAY APRIL 8, SOVIET AMBASSADOR SAMSONOV TOLD ME THAT ARRESTS OF MOHAMMED ADEN, WEIRAH, AND HERSI (MOGADISCIO 0422) WERE AS RESULT OF THEIR ATTEMPTS TO CREATE INTERNAL PROBLEMS FOR SIAD WITHIN HIGHER COUNCILS OF GSDR AND TO CHANGE CERTAIN OF SIAD'S BASIC POLICES. HE ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WERE INVOLVED WITH OTHERS IN RECENT DISSEMINATION OF ANTI-SIAD TRACTS BUT HIS INFORMATION WAS NOT RPT NOT COMPLETE ON THAT POINT.

2. SAMSONOV THOUGHT THAT RECENT BBC BROADCASTS MIGHT HAVE GIVEN THREE MEN SOME ENCOURAGEMENT, PRINCIPALLY IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO STIR UP NATIONAL FEELINGS IN SUPPORT OF SOMALI CLAIMS TO OGADEN. HE SAID REPUTATIONS ALLTHREE HAD ACQUIRED AS QTE MARXISTS UNQTE AMUSING BUT COMPLETELY UNDESERVED. THEY WERE BASICALLY BOURGEOISE POLITICIANS WITH NO RPT NO REAL FOLLOWING OR POLITICAL BASE. HE HAD ALWAYS  
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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00512 090633Z

REGARDED THEM AS TROUBLEMAKERS BUT IN ANY CASE THEY WERE FIGURES

OF NO REAL CONSEQUENCE WHO HAD NOW BEEN PUT ASIDE.

3. SAMSONOV WAS CRYPTIC AND THEN VAGUE ABOUT CHARACTER OF INTERNAL PROBLEM. I HAD IMPRESSION THAT POLICY CHANGE THREE MEN SOUGHT CONCERNED SIAD'S RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION. HE WAS EXPLICIT ON ONE ASPECT OF THEIR MISCHIEF: NAMELY, THEIR ATTEMPTS TO REKINDLE SOMALI ASPIRATIONS FOR RECOVERY OF OGADEN. HE SAID ALL THREE TROUBLEMAKERS HAD TAKEN LINE THAT ETHIOPIA NOW WEAK, WHILE SOMALIA -- WITH SOVIET ARMS -- NOW HAD CAPACITY TO RECOVER ITS LANDS IN OGADEN. (HE DID NOT RPT NOT DRAW OUT THEIR CONNECTIONS WITH OGADEN TRIBESMEN.) HE THOUGHT BBC BROADCASTS HAD ENCOURAGED THESE AMITIONS, SINCE HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME OF BBC SOMALI LANGUAGE BROADCASTS TO MOGADISCIO HAD COMMENTED ON SOMALI MILITARY STRENGTH IN CONTRAST TO PRESENT DECAY IN ETHIOPIA.

4. SAMSONOV SAID SOME OF TRACTS DISTRIBUTED IN MOGADISCIO HAD TAKEN SIMILAR TACK AND HE SUSPECTED THAT WEIRAH, MOHAMMED ADEN AND HERSI HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THEIR PREPARATION. HE SAID THAT PROBLEMS THEY HAD CREATED ONLY MOMENTARY IN NATURE AND SIAD NOW IN COMPLETE CONTROL -- WITH NO REAL OPPOSITION TO HIS LEADERSHIP.

5. WHEN I ASKED SAMSONOV WHETHER HE THOUGHT KIDNAPPING OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR GUEURY REPRESENTED IRREDENTIST FEELINS STIRRING BENEATH SURFACE, HE SAID THAT PROBLEM HAD BEEN DISPOSED OF AS WELL. HE BELIEVED PURPOSE OF GUEURY ABDUCTION WAS TO EMBARRASS PRESIDENT SIAD, WHO HAD BEEN SHOCKED WHEN HE LEARNED OF GUEURY'S SEIZURE. HE DID NOT RPT NOT THINK GSDR -- AT LEAST AT PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL -- AWARE OF PLOT BEFOREHAND. HE THEN ADDED THAT GUEURY AFFAIR HAD HAD SECONDARY EFFECT, SINCE IT SHOWED SIAD THAT REGARDLESS OF STRENGTH OF HIS PREVIOUS INTERNAL SECURITY MEASURES, DISORDERS COULD OCCUR. AS RESULT OF GUEURY AFFAIR, ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES HAD BEEN TAKEN AND SIAD NOW HAD INTERNAL SITUATION FIRMLY IN HAND.

6. SAMSONOV ALSO ASKED ME ABOUT ETHIOPIA AND ARAB INTENTIONS IN SOMALIA, WHICH IS SUBJECT SEPTTEL.  
HAMRICK

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## Message Attributes

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